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ABSTRACT

This 1994 Iowa Kids Count book presents data collected as part of a national program to track trends in child well-being. The purpose of the publication is to provide trend information needed by policy makers and the public to establish results-based policies to improve child well-being. The first part of the book describes the changing status of the Iowa family and the implications of these changes for the well-being of children and for social policy. The second part reveals mixed results in child well-being trends in the areas of: (1) "Infant Mortality"; (2) "Low Birthweight"; (3) "Child Deaths"; (4) "Teen Violent Deaths"; (5) "Births to 16- and 17-Year-Olds"; (6) "Teen Unmarried Births"; (7) "Child Abuse"; (8) "High School Graduation"; and (9) Rural, Small Urban and Metropolitan County Comparisons." The report stresses the need for social policy that is responsive to changing social structure. (AMC)

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Indicators of Well-Being For Iowa Children

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Family Matters

Indicators of Well-Being for Iowa Children

1994

Iowa Kids Count is affiliated with National Kids Count
and funded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation

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The Iowa Kids Count Initiative is funded by a grant from the Annie E. Casey Foundation, which also supports a national Kids Count data book tracking trends in child well-being across the fifty states. Iowa was one of the first eight state projects funded, and 1995 marks the fifth year of the Iowa Kids Count Initiative. The Iowa Kids Count Initiative is administered by the Child and Family Policy Center with a steering committee composed of representatives from the Iowa State University Extension Service, the Iowa State Library, the Commission on Children, Youth and Families, and the Iowa Department of Human Services.

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Foreword

When the Annie E. Casey Foundation selected the phrase *Kids Count* to identify their national and state efforts to track trends in child well-being, they did so for a reason.

As a phrase, *Kids Count* has several important connotations. First, the data books developed through Kids Count represent a count of children and their well-being and status in society. Second, as children grow and develop, they themselves learn to count and to make distinctions. Third, children are critical to society's well-being; they matter, or count, in our lives. *Kids Count* embodies all these connotations.

This year's Iowa Kids Count Data Book is entitled *Family Matters* for a reason as well. As a phrase, *Family Matters* has several important connotations. The first part of this data book describes the changing status of the Iowa family — it is about family matters and concerns. It describes the implications of these changes to the well-being of children — that families do matter to how well children succeed. Finally, it discusses the implications of the changing status of Iowa families to social policy — the particular issues and matters that public policies must address if they are to support families in supporting their children.

Families are the building blocks of our society and the most important determinants of a child's future. *Family Matters* represents Iowa Kids Count's continuing effort to provide trend information needed by policy makers and the public to establish results-based policies to improve child well-being.

The Iowa Kids Count Initiative is in the fifth year of a seven-year grant from the Annie E. Casey Foundation, totalling $555,000. The Initiative is grateful to the Annie E. Casey Foundation for this support and for its vision and commitment to improving the lives of disadvantaged children.

Part One:
Trends in Family Well-Being in Iowa—
The Next Quarter Century

The Carnegie Foundation calls it "the quiet crisis."

The "crisis" is that an increasing proportion of the country's, and Iowa's, children are at risk — at risk of low birthweight, child abuse and neglect, school unreadiness, delinquency, substance abuse, school failure, adolescent childbearing, and unemployability. At the same time technology offers exciting new opportunities for more fortunate youth, those less fortunate face bleak futures.

The "quiet" is that many of the signs that things are not going well for children — that children are at risk — do not reach the public policy arena as immediate and pressing needs. They can, and have been, ignored.

What has been the cause of this quiet crisis? How did we get into the position of placing our youngest generation; and, therefore, society as a whole, at risk?

This Part of *Family Matters* offers a long-term perspective in answering these questions. It describes economic and social changes that have occurred over the last quarter century in Iowa and the country that have placed increased pressures on most families and their children.

The next part of *Family Matters* describes trends in child well-being in Iowa over the past fourteen years. As has been the case for the past four years, the Iowa Kids Count data book tracks important trends in child well-being across dimensions of health, social, and educational development.

Although focusing upon child well-being, however, in large measure these trends are a consequence of the changes in family economic and social well-being over the last quarter century. The goal of Iowa Kids Count is to make both these trends more a part of serious public discourse and action, and less "quiet."

Increasingly, both conservatives and liberals are recognizing that children are at increasing risk because families are more fragile and under more stress. Whether one speaks of "family values" or of "valuing families," people recognize that society and family life have changed in ways that pose threats to the security and development of too many children.

A public opinion survey of Iowans conducted by Kids Count in 1992 showed that concern over the ability of families to raise their children is widespread. Over three-quarters (76%) of adults polled felt that it was more difficult to raise children today than the time they were raised. Less than one-tenth (8%) felt it was easier. Only one-fifth (21%) felt the quality of children's lives in Iowa was improving; nearly twice as

many (36%) felt it was falling behind. The Iowa figures are consistent with national public opinion polls showing that Americans believe family life is more stressful and children are at increasing risk as a result.

The trend information provided below outlines the powerful economic changes that have had an impact upon all families in society. It is not a matter of blaming certain families — or of blaming social change. It is a matter of recognizing that many of the conditions placing children at risk are a reflection of changes in the economy of society as a whole.

The majority of the trend data is presented for the last quarter century, roughly from 1970 to the present. There are several reasons for emphasis upon this twenty-five year period. First, trends in family well-being started to change at about this time. From World War II until 1970, Iowa and the country experienced unparalleled prosperity, growth, and stability. Yet the end of the nineteen sixties saw the beginning of a change in the structure of the economy and the families within it. Second, this is the era during which the "baby boom" generation was raised. This generation, now in its thirties and forties, represents a dominant force in American society, one with strong recollections of this time. Third, the twenty-five year period suggests the time span needed for addressing trends in child well-being. The risk many children face today as a result of family trends over the last twenty-five years will not be addressed overnight.

The trend information provided outlines the powerful economic changes that have had an impact upon all families in society.

Postwar Prosperity and Family Stability — 1945-1970

It is important to place the last quarter century in the context of the quarter century that preceded it. In the period from the end of World War II to 1970 — the United States and Iowa enjoyed unprecedented growth and stability. As other advanced economies were recovering from the devastation of World War II, the United States became the supplier of modern goods for that rebuilding effort.

In Iowa and the United States, workers' real incomes grew dramatically, and technology provided a wealth of new consumer goods and services. An increasing portion of American families aspired to home ownership and modern conveniences, and achieved them on one full-time salary. This period produced a stability in family life not known previously. It was during this period that the stereotype of a

family with a full-time, wage-earning father and a homemaking mother developed as a definition of "normal" family structure. While only a brief period in our country's history, this stereotype has remained as the basis for much social policy.

Declining Wages and Stagnant Family Incomes — 1970-Present

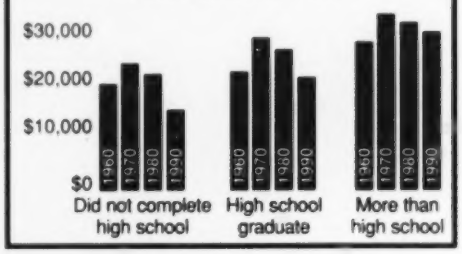
If the quarter century following World War II was a period of rising expectations and opportunities, the quarter century since has been one of declining real wages and a resulting need for families to be industrious and ingenious to maintain their standard of living.

In their book, *Toward A More Perfect Union*, Gordon Berlin and Andrew Sum contend that two-parent American families have done four things during this period to maintain or improve their standard of living:

- They have delayed childbearing.
- They have had fewer children.
- They have worked more.
- They have gone into debt.

Earnings (when adjusted for inflation) declined for males in the period from 1970 to 1990. As Table One shows, earnings for white men aged 25-34 increased from 1960 to 1970, but declined during each of the next two decades. While this occurred among men of all educational backgrounds, it was most pronounced for those who did not complete high school. Between 1970 and 1990,

Table One
Earnings of White Males, Age 25–34
1960–1990
By Educational Attainment



their earnings declined by more than one-third (37%). For those with a high school diploma only, earnings declined by one-fifth (21%). Men with more than a high school education experienced a decline of one-tenth (10%), but were the only group still better off than they were in 1960.

What has rescued many families from lower overall family incomes has been a large increase in the number of mothers joining the workforce. This has been particularly true for college-educated, professional couples, whose overall income has risen over this period.

Even with this increase in workforce participation, however, the result has been that the median family income for families with children has remained stagnant over the last quarter century, adjusted for inflation.

At the lower end of the income scale, however, the number of families living below the poverty level has risen. Much of this is the result of

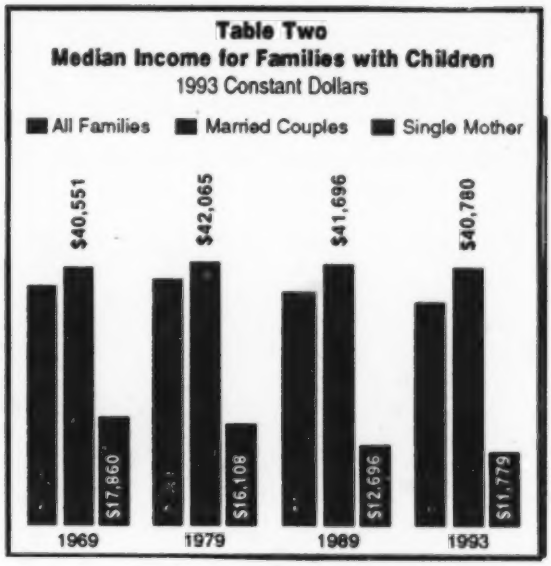
an increasing number of single-parent families.

On the upper-income end, the number of families earning more than $100,000, in 1992 wages, has risen dramatically, from 2.0% of all families with children in 1967 to 6.2% in 1992. These changes in family income have been referred to as a "narrowing of the middle class" or a widening spread between the "haves" and the "have-nots" in society.

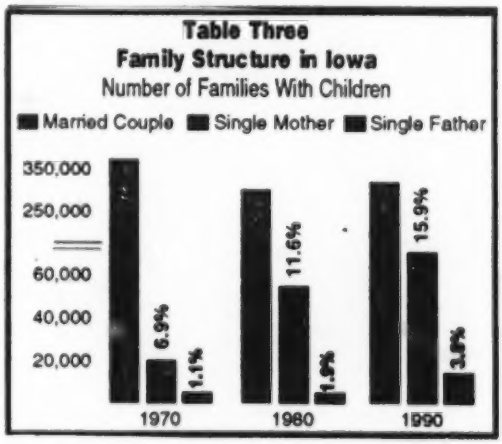
Iowa Trends in Family Income and Family Structure

Trends in family income and family structure in Iowa over the last quarter century are similar, but not identical, to those occurring in the country as a whole. They represent significant shifts in the social and economic fabric of life, with major implications for childrearing.

As Table Two shows, between 1969 and 1993, the median family income for families with children in Iowa actually declined (nationally, it remained stagnant during that period). The median family income for two-parent families remained the same over this period, at about $40,000 in 1993 dollars. Income for single-parent families headed by a woman declined, however, resulting in a declining income for all families with children over this period. Again, while many families have seen their economic outlook improve over this period, this has been the case primarily for two-parent families in white collar employment. The "average" Iowa family with children has seen its earnings opportunities diminish over the last quarter century.



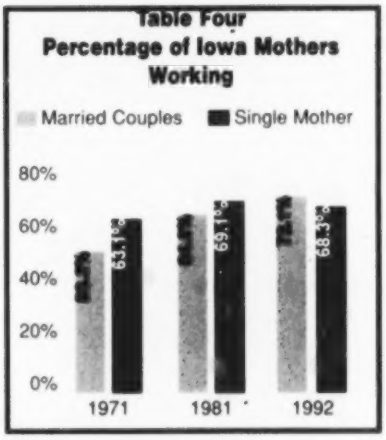
Because the proportion of single-parent families has increased, their impact on the median income for families with children has become greater over this period. Table Three shows this change in family



structure. In 1970, 92% of all families with children were headed by a married couple. By 1990, that figure had dropped by 12%, to 80% of all families. While many reasons have been advanced for the increase in single parenting, it is clear that this increase, coupled with the low incomes of single-parent families, places serious economic strains on childrearing.

The changes presented in Tables Two and Three have occurred despite the fact that there has been a dramatic increase in the proportion of mothers who work outside the home. As Table Four shows, between 1971 and 1992, the proportion of mothers in the work force from married-couple families and from single-parent families both rose. The rise among married-couple families has been much more dramatic, however. The increased labor force participation of mothers in two-parent families has offset the declines in real wages and earnings for fathers. Because more mothers are working, overall family earnings for two-parent families have stayed constant. At the same time, however, this has meant that parents have less time to spend at home with their children and have greater needs for child care, especially when their children are very young.

Although mothers in single-parent families similarly are more likely to be working in 1992 than they were in 1971, they also are much more likely to be poor. As stated earlier,



over this period single-parent families have had fewer options available to them to expand their income. Between 1980 and 1990, for instance, the poverty rate among single-parent families headed by a woman increased from 35% of all families to 45%, despite the fact that the women in those families were more likely to be working.

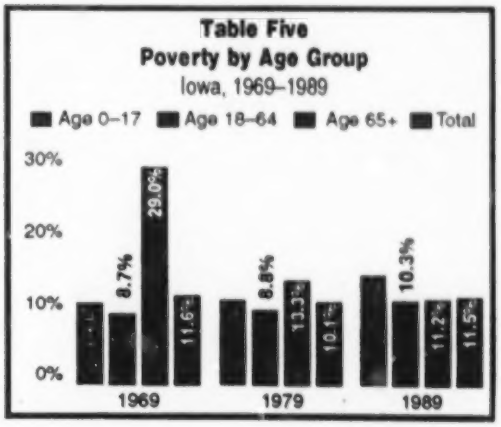
Impacts of Family Trends on Child Poverty and Child Well-Being

These trends in family income have been caused in large measure by shifts in the Iowa and American economy. While some families have been able to respond to these changes and maintain or improve their standard of living, others have not. While these changes have affected all members of society, their impact has been most pronounced upon children.

This is reflected very clearly in the trends in child poverty, as contrasted with poverty among other age

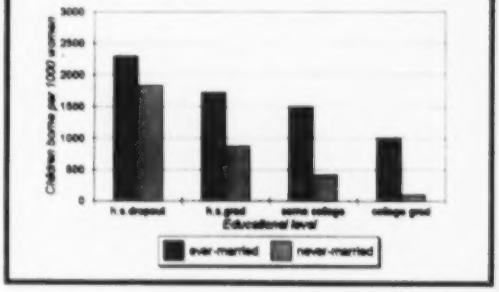
groups and for Iowans as a whole. One consequence of the changes in family income and structure has been to place an increasing proportion of Iowa children in poverty. As Table Five shows, in 1969, children were less likely than Iowans as a whole to live in poverty. By 1989, children had become the age group in society most likely to be poor. Much of this change has been because of the dramatic decline in poverty among senior citizens, the result of higher social security and pension benefits. Still, the "gap" between the poverty experienced by working-age adults and children has widened over this period.

Table Five
Poverty by Age Group
Iowa, 1969–1989



This increase in child poverty also is influenced by the fact that more educated and affluent families have been bearing fewer children. Childbearing rates have changed over the past quarter century, with reductions in childbearing most pronounced among the educated. As Table Six shows, women with fewer years of school, in general, have more children, have them at a younger age, and bear them absent the support of a spouse than do women with more years of school. Table Six presents national data on childbearing for women 25-34, by the women's educational level and marital status. When coupled with similar information for women 35-44, it is clear that women with a high school diploma or less have larger families than college-educated women by a factor of about one child. They also are much less likely to have a supporting spouse. Finally, they have their children at an earlier age. This means, on average, that there will be four generations of children raised by mothers who do not complete high school for every three generations of children raised by mothers who graduate from college.

Table Six
Childbearing by 25–34 year-old U.S. women
By Educational Level, 1992



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It should come as no surprise, given the trends in family structure, income, and childbearing presented here, that the trends on many of the major measures of child well-being presented in Part Two have worsened. Family matters. Increasing family stress and economic insecurity represent a major causal factor in placing Iowa's and the nation's children at increasing risk.

The attention to issues such as family leave, universal child care, and schools as community resource centers is a reflection not of liberal or conservative philosophy but of changing social structure and its demands for responsive social policy.

Family Trends and Public Policy—The Next Quarter Century

Many of the trends presented here are economic. These economic forces strongly impact family life and the ability of parents to rear children. As the economic structure of society changes, public policy must confront new issues and define new roles. The trends shown here present new challenges to raising children, and assuring that all children have an opportunity to succeed. As parents spend more time at work, they must rely upon other social institutions to meet their child's needs while they are away from home. Public policies must respond to these new realities about work and family.

A number of challenges and opportunities emerge from the preceding trends.

First, society must give greater attention to the needs of children and families, and particularly their needs for economic security. From 1970 to the present, concerted public efforts have helped provide much greater economic security to senior citizens, as indicated by dramatic reductions in poverty among seniors. Equivalent public commitments are needed for children and families. The attention to issues such as family leave, universal child care, and schools as community resource centers is a reflection not of liberal or conservative philosophy but of changing social structure and its demands for responsive social policy.

Second, in the short-term, schools and other social institutions are likely to face increased challenges and greater numbers of children and families at risk. An increasing proportion of children are being born into families whose educational and economic backgrounds are too marginal to fully support their needs. To the turn of the century, kindergarten classes will have higher numbers of children from homes

with low-income, limited-education parents than currently is reflected in society as a whole.

Third, the solution to bringing children out of risk must be comprehensive and must stress educational development. Employment at family-sustaining wages now requires much higher levels of education and training than it did a quarter century ago. The next generation of children must have families that support their increased educational attainment, educational systems that provide it, and social and economic supports that reinforce it. Children bring more than educational needs into a classroom; these other needs must be addressed if children are to learn and succeed.

Finally, reversing quarter-century-long trends will not be achieved overnight. It will require a long-term public and private commitment. The well-being of Iowa's children and families can be improved, but it will not occur within a single budgeting period or before the next election.

The commitment to children should be made for the next quarter century. This commitment must stress family matters and stress that family matters. At the root of Iowa's continued success will be strong families and social policies that are responsive to them.

Part Two: Child Well-Being Trends Reveal Mixed Results

Family Matters provides updated data on the eight indicators of child well-being reported in the previous Kids Count Data Books, *World-Class Futures* (1991), *Challenging Trends* (1992) and *Reinventing Common Sense* (1993). Consistent with past years, these data are presented in table form on a county-by-county as well as a statewide basis. In addition, the information is broken down on a rural, small urban and metropolitan basis to add that perspective.

Family Matters includes data from the most recent year available, 1993. The 1993 data, with fourteen-year trend information (1980-1993), are summarized below.

1993 Data in Brief

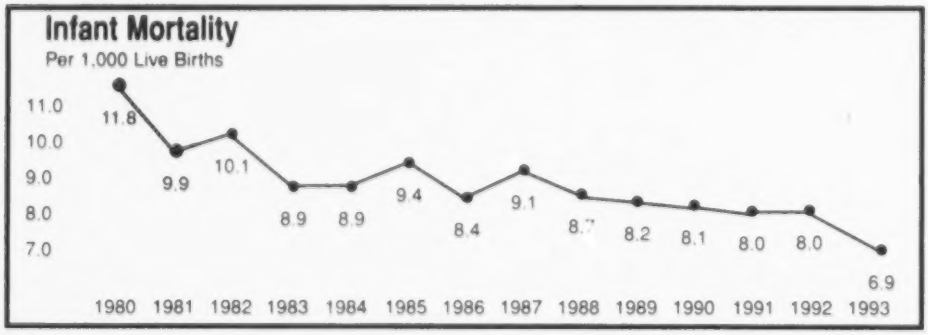
Between 1992 and 1993, there was improvement in child well-being within Iowa on only two of the eight Kids Count indicators, with a decline on the remaining six indicators.

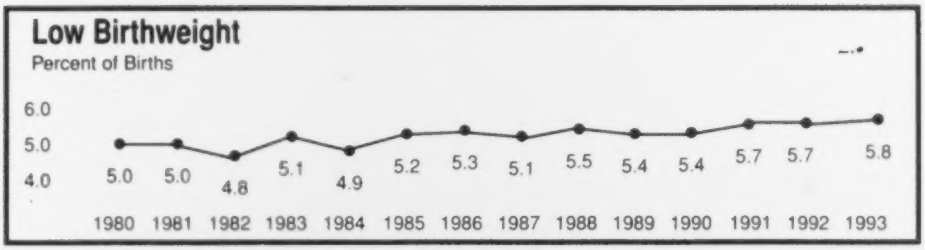
1993 Improvements. The infant mortality rate was lower in 1993 than 1992, with the 1993 rate reaching a fourteen-year low. The high school graduation percentage increased during the same period and reached its highest level since 1984.

1993 Decline. The low birthweight, births to 16- and 17-year-old and teen unmarried birth percentages, and the child abuse rate all increased from 1992 to 1993, with each reaching a fourteen-year high. The child death and teen violent death rates also rose from 1992 to 1993.

Interpretation of Trends

In some ways, the decline of the indicators of child well-being from 1992 to 1993 is a continuation of the deterioration shown by the indicators since 1980. From 1980 to 1993, there has been improvement in four of the indicators and a decline in four. Three of the four indicators that showed improvement were mortality indicators: infant mortality, child deaths and teen violent deaths. The other indicator that showed improvement was high school graduation.





The four indicators showing a decline were: low birthweight, births to 16- and 17-year-olds, teen unmarried births, and child abuse. The trends of these indicators of child well-being continue to indicate a need to support children and families more effectively.

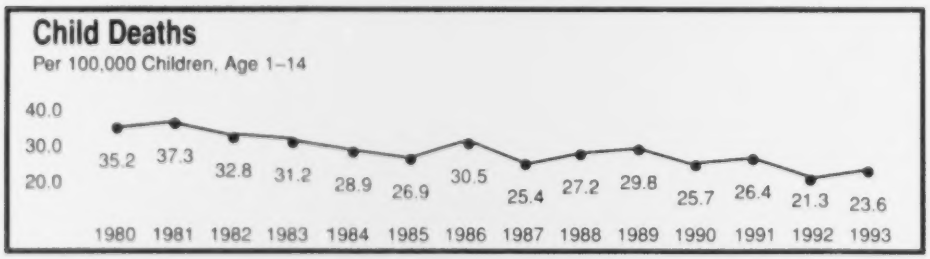
The most recent National Kids Count Data Book ranks Iowa second in child well-being in comparison to other states. However, the gap between Iowa and the other states is closing. When looked at over the long-term, the trends on these eight indicators reveal increased challenges to the well-being of children and society.

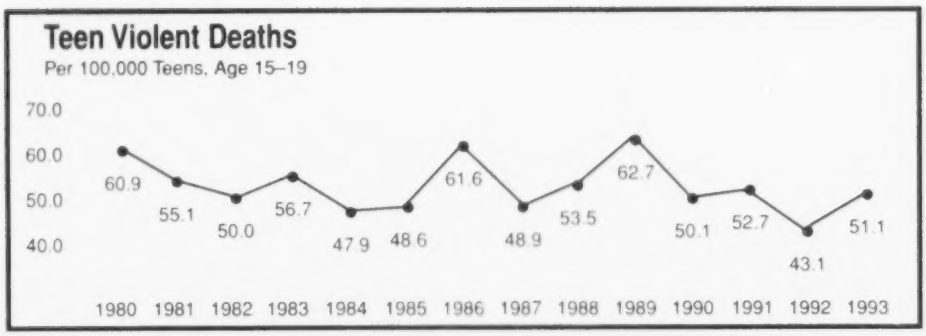
Infant mortality and low birthweight. Infant mortality, which measures the death rate of infants under one year of age, has shown a marked improvement over the past fourteen years, decreasing 41.5 percent from 1980 to 1993. This is encouraging news, but it is tempered by the fact that the low birthweight percentage, the percentage of infants born at less than 5.5 pounds, has increased 16.0 percent during the same time period.

Most of the improvements in infant mortality can be attributed to medical advances keeping premature, low birthweight infants alive. Low birthweight in babies is preventable, in many cases, through comprehensive prenatal care and support. Further gains in infant mortality and a reversal in low birthweight are likely to be possible only if there are improvements in prenatal health care and other supports for pregnant women.

Child and teen violent deaths. Similar to infant mortality, the mortality indicators of children and teens also have improved significantly during the past fourteen years. The death rate for children age one to fourteen decreased 33.0 percent while the violent death rate (suicides, homicides and motor vehicle deaths) for teens age fifteen to nineteen fell 16.1 percent since 1980.

Because the majority of deaths in both groups is due to automobile accidents, the decreases may be due to the increased use of seat belts and child safety restraints, and an increased awareness of the conse-



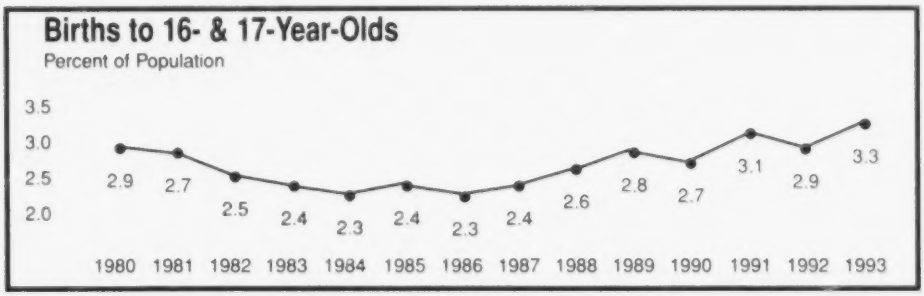


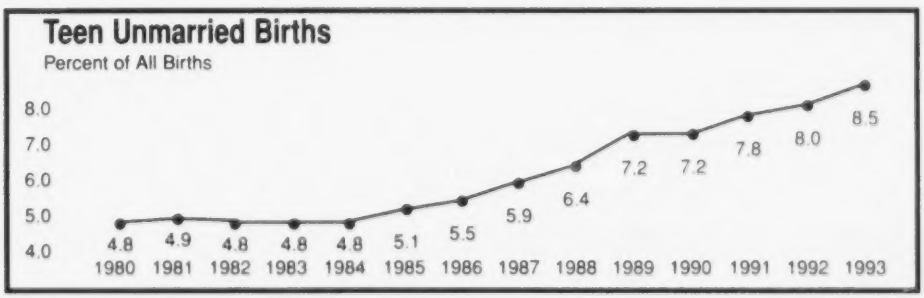
quences of drinking and driving.

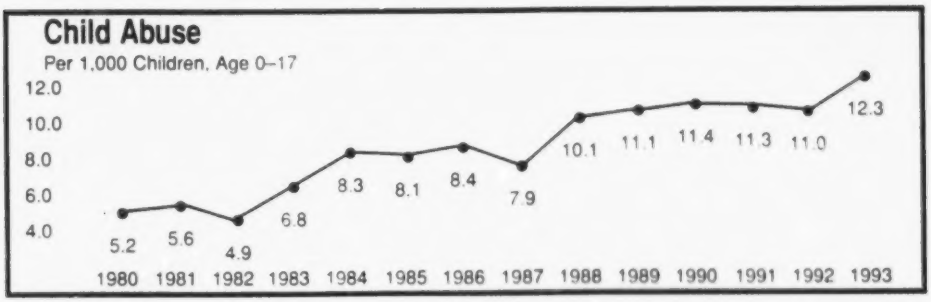
Adolescent parenting. Births to 16- and 17-year-olds and births to unmarried teens represent indicators that are major causes for concern. The percent of births for young women in the 16- and 17-year-old age bracket increased 13.8 percent during the past fourteen years. Teen unmarried births, as a percentage of all births, increased 77.1 percent during the same time frame. Approximately one in twelve infants was born to an unmarried teen in 1993.

The total number of births to teens has decreased during the past thirty years, but, the proportion of these births to unmarried teens has increased dramatically. There is not only an increase in the number of single, teen parents, but these single teens are becoming parents at an earlier age. Adolescent parenting is associated with low birthweight, poverty, and child abuse and neglect, and also results in a greater relative burden upon society.

Child abuse and neglect. The rate of founded cases of child abuse has shown the greatest increase of all the Kids Count indicators presented. The child abuse rate increased







136.5 percent from 1980 to 1993.

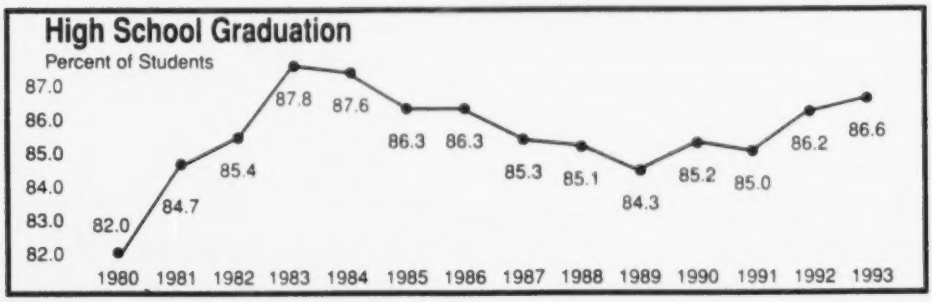
Moreover, even with a declining child population, the number of founded cases of child abuse has more than doubled during this time. In 1980, there were 4,267 founded cases of child abuse reported in Iowa. By 1993, that figure had jumped to 8,829.

High school graduation. The high school graduation percentage, which is the percentage of students entering seventh grade who graduate with their class six years later, increased a modest 5.6 percent during the fourteen-year period. This represents no realistic improvement in the educational preparation of youth for adult economic life, however. Studies show that it is much more difficult today for an adult with a high school diploma or less to secure employment with a family-sustaining income than it was fourteen years ago.

The lack of significant progress in high school completion means many more young adults today are at risk of dependency, poverty and stress as they become parents.

General. Children should be provided a safe, healthy and nurturing environment in which to live and grow to their future potential. The trend data presented here have major implications for public policies and expenditures. Low birthweight, adolescent parenting, child abuse and neglect, and failure to complete high school result in significant social and financial costs, and deny children the opportunity to reach this potential.

To reverse these deteriorating trends, comprehensive and preventive programs aimed at children and their families must be continued, enhanced and expanded. Programs such as Healthy Families, Head Start and FaDSS (Family Development and Self-Sufficiency) have the ability to reach the children and families before the trends become overwhelming and, potentially, irreversible.



Infant Mortality

Low

The 1993 statewide infant mortality rate of 6.9 infant deaths per 1,000 live births represented a 14 percent decrease from the 1992 rate of 8.0 infant deaths and, for the first time, Iowa achieved the Healthy People 2000 goal of 7.0 infant deaths per 1,000 live births. In addition, 60 percent of the state's counties themselves reached the infant mortality goal in 1993 while just over one quarter of the counties recorded infant mortality rates higher than the national rate.

Iowa's low birthweight percentage of 5.8 percent in 1993 was a slight increase from the 1992 rate of 5.7 percent. Even though Iowa ranks thirteenth nationally among the states with infants born at low birthweight, the 1993 percentage

County	Live Births	Infant Deaths	Inf. Mort. Rate
Adair	74	0	0.0
Adams	**51**	**0**	**0.0**
Allamakee	176	3	17.0
Appanoose	**164**	**2**	**12.2**
Audubon	72	0	0.0
Benton	**308**	**4**	**13.0**
Black Hawk	1,774	22	12.4
Boone	**274**	**1**	**3.6**
Bremer	272	2	7.4
Buchanan	**277**	**1**	**3.6**
Buena Vista	238	0	0.0
Butler	**169**	**1**	**5.9**
Calhoun	90	1	11.1
Carroll	**258**	**2**	**7.8**
Cass	178	0	0.0
Cedar	**203**	**3**	**14.8**
Cerro Gordo	592	6	10.1
Cherokee	**141**	**0**	**0.0**
Chickasaw	179	1	5.6
Clarke	**81**	**0**	**0.0**
Clay	190	0	0.0
Clayton	**242**	**1**	**4.1**
Clinton	680	8	11.8
Crawford	**208**	**1**	**4.8**
Dallas	425	2	4.7
Davis	**118**	**1**	**8.5**
Decatur	88	1	11.4
Delaware	**262**	**1**	**3.8**
Des Moines	558	3	5.4
Dickinson	**127**	**2**	**15.7**
Dubuque	1,252	2	1.6
Emmet	**141**	**0**	**0.0**
Fayette	255	1	3.9
Floyd	**200**	**1**	**5.0**
Franklin	120	1	8.3
Fremont	**90**	**0**	**0.0**
Greene	129	1	7.8
Grundy	**141**	**0**	**0.0**
Guthrie	105	0	0.0
Hamilton	**193**	**1**	**5.2**
Hancock	125	0	0.0
Hardin	**204**	**0**	**0.0**
Harrison	179	1	5.6
Henry	**252**	**4**	**15.9**
Howard	112	1	8.9
Humboldt	**110**	**0**	**0.0**
Ida	93	2	21.5
Iowa	**213**	**0**	**0.0**
Jackson	258	2	7.8
Jasper	**423**	**5**	**11.8**
Jefferson	177	3	16.9
Johnson	1,337	3	2.2
Jones	**235**	**1**	**4.3**
Keokuk	143	0	0.0
Kossuth	**219**	**0**	**0.0**
Lee	526	3	5.7
Linn	**2,551**	**19**	**7.4**
Louisa	184	2	10.9
Lucas	**117**	**0**	**0.0**
Lyon	162	2	12.3
Madison	**162**	**0**	**0.0**
Mahaska	277	1	3.6
Marion	**391**	**2**	**5.1**
Marshall	523	4	7.6
Mills	**159**	**2**	**12.6**
Mitchell	154	1	6.5
Monona	**106**	**2**	**18.9**
Monroe	119	0	0.0
Montgomery	**141**	**2**	**14.2**
Muscatine	642	3	4.7
O'Brien	**191**	**2**	**10.5**
Osceola	81	0	0.0
Page	**164**	**4**	**24.4**
Palo Alto	109	2	18.3
Plymouth	**307**	**3**	**9.8**
Pocahontas	88	0	0.0
Polk	**5,460**	**48**	**8.8**
Pottawattamie	1,193	7	5.9
Poweshiek	**205**	**1**	**4.9**
Ringgold	38	0	0.0
Sac	**139**	**0**	**0.0**
Scott	2,408	12	5.0
Shelby	**163**	**0**	**0.0**
Sioux	437	2	4.6
Story	**785**	**6**	**7.6**
Tama	225	1	4.4
Taylor	**70**	**0**	**0.0**
Union	152	0	0.0
Van Buren	**108**	**1**	**9.3**
Wapello	465	3	6.5
Warren	**499**	**4**	**8.0**
Washington	273	1	3.7
Wayne	**71**	**0**	**0.0**
Webster	534	4	7.5
Winnebago	**121**	**3**	**24.8**
Winneshiek	229	0	0.0
Woodbury	**1,651**	**13**	**7.9**
Worth	94	0	0.0
Wright	**156**	**3**	**19.2**
Iowa	**37,805**	**261**	**6.9**
United States (1992)			8.5

County	Live Births	Low Birthwt.	% Low Birthwt.
Adair	74	3	4.1%
Adams	**51**	**4**	**7.8%**
Allamakee	176	16	9.1%
Appanoose	**164**	**11**	**6.7%**
Audubon	72	3	4.2%
Benton	**308**	**21**	**6.8%**
Black Hawk	1,774	147	8.3%
Boone	**274**	**18**	**6.6%**
Bremer	272	15	5.5%
Buchanan	**277**	**16**	**5.8%**
Buena Vista	238	19	8.0%
Butler	**169**	**11**	**6.5%**
Calhoun	90	4	4.4%
Carroll	**258**	**13**	**5.0%**
Cass	178	8	4.5%
Cedar	**203**	**6**	**3.0%**
Cerro Gordo	592	44	7.4%
Cherokee	**141**	**13**	**9.2%**
Chickasaw	179	9	5.0%
Clarke	**81**	**0**	**0.0%**
Clay	190	4	2.1%
Clayton	**242**	**9**	**3.7%**
Clinton	680	41	6.0%
Crawford	**208**	**14**	**6.7%**
Dallas	425	24	5.6%
Davis	**118**	**11**	**9.3%**
Decatur	88	4	4.5%
Delaware	**262**	**17**	**6.5%**
Des Moines	558	29	5.2%
Dickinson	**127**	**7**	**5.5%**
Dubuque	1,252	73	5.8%
Emmet	**141**	**11**	**7.8%**
Fayette	255	18	7.1%
Floyd	**200**	**13**	**6.5%**
Franklin	120	8	6.7%
Fremont	**90**	**5**	**5.6%**
Greene	129	12	9.3%
Grundy	**141**	**6**	**4.3%**
Guthrie	105	5	4.8%
Hamilton	**193**	**9**	**4.7%**
Hancock	125	3	2.4%
Hardin	**204**	**20**	**9.8%**
Harrison	179	11	6.1%
Henry	**252**	**17**	**6.7%**
Howard	112	5	4.5%
Humboldt	**110**	**8**	**7.3%**
Ida	93	4	4.3%
Iowa	**213**	**10**	**4.7%**
Jackson	258	14	5.4%
Jasper	**423**	**21**	**5.0%**
Jefferson	177	8	4.5%

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Birthweight

was still below the Healthy People 2000 goal of 5.0 percent low birthweight infants. More than 40 percent of the counties in the state recorded low birthweight percentages at or below the low birthweight goal, however.

County	Live Births	Low Birthwt.	% Low Birthwt.
Johnson	1,337	72	5.4%
Jones	235	10	4.3%
Keokuk	143	3	2.1%
Kossuth	219	9	4.1%
Lee	526	28	5.3%
Linn	2,551	128	5.0%
Louisa	184	6	3.3%
Lucas	117	5	4.3%
Lyon	162	2	1.2%
Madison	162	10	6.2%
Mahaska	277	20	7.2%
Marion	391	20	5.1%
Marshall	523	34	6.5%
Mills	159	10	6.3%
Mitchell	154	6	3.9%
Monona	106	5	4.7%
Monroe	119	7	5.9%
Montgomery	141	8	5.7%
Muscatine	642	30	4.7%
O'Brien	191	10	5.2%
Osceola	81	1	1.2%
Page	164	15	9.1%
Palo Alto	109	8	7.3%
Plymouth	307	19	6.2%
Pocahontas	88	8	9.1%
Polk	5,460	336	6.2%
Pottawattamie	1,193	71	6.0%
Poweshiek	205	8	3.9%
Ringgold	38	2	5.3%
Sac	139	6	4.3%
Scott	2,408	159	6.6%
Shelby	163	12	7.4%
Sioux	437	14	3.2%
Story	785	36	4.6%
Tama	225	10	4.4%
Taylor	70	5	7.1%
Union	152	8	5.3%
Van Buren	108	4	3.7%
Wapello	465	27	5.8%
Warren	499	28	5.6%
Washington	273	6	2.2%
Wayne	71	1	1.4%
Webster	534	39	7.3%
Winnebago	121	8	6.6%
Winneshiek	229	5	2.2%
Woodbury	1,651	88	5.3%
Worth	94	6	6.4%
Wright	156	3	1.9%
Iowa	**37,805**	**2,178**	**5.8%**
United States (1992)			7.1%

Child Deaths

The child death rate in Iowa registered a modest increase from 1992 to 1993, increasing from 21.3 deaths per 100,000 children age 1–14 in 1992 to 23.6 deaths in 1993. Even so, Iowa ranks fifth nationally among the states in child death rates and already has reached the Healthy People 2000 goal of 28.0 child deaths per 100,000 children age 1–14. Just over one-third of the counties in the state recorded higher child death rates than the Healthy People 2000 goal in 1993.

County	Child Population	Child Deaths	Death Rate
Adair	1,684	0	0.0
Adams	923	0	0.0
Allamakee	3,010	1	33.2
Appanoose	2,729	1	36.6
Audubon	1,480	0	0.0
Benton	4,990	1	20.0
Black Hawk	25,105	5	19.9
Boone	4,973	0	0.0
Bremer	4,531	1	22.1
Buchanan	5,127	0	0.0
Buena Vista	4,166	1	24.0
Butler	3,277	2	61.0
Calhoun	2,320	0	0.0
Carroll	5,187	1	19.3
Cass	3,080	1	32.5
Cedar	3,712	0	0.0
Cerro Gordo	9,239	4	43.3
Cherokee	3,007	0	0.0
Chickasaw	2,942	2	68.0
Clarke	1,719	1	58.2
Clay	3,894	1	25.7
Clayton	4,167	1	24.0
Clinton	10,859	3	27.6
Crawford	3,585	1	27.9
Dallas	6,629	0	0.0
Davis	1,778	2	112.5
Decatur	1,517	2	131.8
Delaware	4,475	1	22.3
Des Moines	8,769	2	22.8
Dickinson	2,787	1	35.9
Dubuque	18,557	7	37.7
Emmet	2,398	0	0.0
Fayette	4,555	1	22.0
Floyd	3,503	0	0.0
Franklin	2,344	0	0.0
Fremont	1,705	1	58.7
Greene	2,003	1	49.9
Grundy	2,441	0	0.0
Guthrie	2,162	0	0.0
Hamilton	3,219	0	0.0
Hancock	2,839	2	70.4
Hardin	3,652	2	54.8
Harrison	3,159	1	31.7
Henry	3,872	2	51.7
Howard	2,083	2	96.0
Humboldt	2,187	0	0.0
Ida	1,849	0	0.0
Iowa	2,998	1	33.4
Jackson	4,400	3	68.2
Jasper	6,987	1	14.3
Jefferson	3,215	0	0.0
Johnson	15,665	3	19.2
Jones	3,950	0	0.0
Keokuk	2,428	0	0.0
Kossuth	4,141	0	0.0
Lee	7,973	0	0.0
Linn	33,518	5	14.9
Louisa	2,491	1	40.1
Lucas	1,778	1	56.2
Lyon	2,897	1	34.5
Madison	2,689	2	74.4
Mahaska	4,477	0	0.0
Marion	6,107	1	16.4
Marshall	7,556	1	13.2
Mills	2,834	1	35.3
Mitchell	2,242	1	44.6
Monona	1,943	2	102.9
Monroe	1,635	0	0.0
Montgomery	2,360	2	84.7
Muscatine	8,806	0	0.0
O'Brien	3,305	0	0.0
Osceola	1,563	0	0.0
Page	3,328	1	30.0
Palo Alto	2,259	1	44.3
Plymouth	5,445	2	36.7
Pocahontas	1,983	1	50.4
Polk	65,413	25	38.2
Pottawattamie	17,926	1	5.6
Poweshiek	3,653	0	0.0
Ringgold	1,039	0	0.0
Sac	2,636	2	75.9
Scott	33,779	7	20.7
Shelby	2,861	1	35.0
Sioux	7,251	0	0.0
Story	11,787	2	17.0
Tama	3,589	2	55.7
Taylor	1,428	0	0.0
Union	2,570	0	0.0
Van Buren	1,620	0	0.0
Wapello	6,728	1	14.9
Warren	8,081	2	24.7
Washington	4,216	0	0.0
Wayne	1,321	0	0.0
Webster	8,382	1	11.9
Winnebago	2,452	2	81.6
Winneshiek	4,127	0	0.0
Woodbury	22,122	4	18.1
Worth	1,571	0	0.0
Wright	2,744	0	0.0
Iowa	**572,458**	**135**	**23.6**
United States (1992)			28.8

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Teen Violent Deaths

Births to 16-

The statewide teen violent death rate, comprised of suicides, homicides and motor vehicle accidents, rose from 43.1 deaths per 100,000 teens age 15–19 in 1992 to 51.1 deaths in 1993, a 19 percent increase. More than 40 percent of the counties in Iowa had teen violent death rates higher than the statewide rate in 1993. Most of these counties were rural which, as was the case with child deaths, tended to have higher death rates than the more populated counties.

The percentage of 16- and 17-year-olds giving birth in Iowa, which had decreased from 1991 to 1992, increased 14 percent from 1992 to 1993. The birth percentage was 2.9 percent in 1992 and rose to 3.3 percent in 1993. One in

County	Teen Population	Violent Deaths	Death Rate
Adair	486	0	0.0
Adams	311	0	0.0
Allamakee	916	3	327.5
Appanoose	950	2	210.5
Audubon	429	0	0.0
Benton	1,441	1	69.4
Black Hawk	9,970	1	10.0
Boone	1,511	0	0.0
Bremer	1,903	0	0.0
Buchanan	1,499	0	0.0
Buena Vista	1,479	1	67.6
Butler	1,058	2	189.0
Calhoun	656	0	0.0
Carroll	1,387	0	0.0
Cass	932	1	107.3
Cedar	1,093	1	91.5
Cerro Gordo	3,221	2	62.1
Cherokee	950	0	0.0
Chickasaw	944	0	0.0
Clarke	535	0	0.0
Clay	1,134	0	0.0
Clayton	1,278	5	391.2
Clinton	3,531	1	28.3
Crawford	1,363	0	0.0
Dallas	1,931	2	103.6
Davis	578	1	173.0
Decatur	798	1	125.3
Delaware	1,246	1	80.3
Des Moines	2,844	4	140.6
Dickinson	887	0	0.0
Dubuque	6,809	2	29.4
Emmet	988	0	0.0
Fayette	1,491	0	0.0
Floyd	1,141	1	87.6
Franklin	691	0	0.0
Fremont	550	0	0.0
Greene	591	0	0.0
Grundy	728	1	137.4
Guthrie	656	1	152.4
Hamilton	1,039	0	0.0
Hancock	836	1	119.6
Hardin	1,573	0	0.0
Harrison	993	0	0.0
Henry	1,350	1	74.1
Howard	580	0	0.0
Humboldt	649	0	0.0
Ida	540	3	555.6
Iowa	838	0	0.0
Jackson	1,420	0	0.0
Jasper	2,321	3	129.3
Jefferson	988	0	0.0
Johnson	8,758	1	11.4
Jones	1,295	3	231.7
Keokuk	748	2	267.4
Kossuth	1,202	2	166.4
Lee	2,471	0	0.0
Linn	12,291	3	24.4
Louisa	818	1	122.2
Lucas	595	0	0.0
Lyon	837	1	119.5
Madison	929	0	0.0
Mahaska	1,480	0	0.0
Marion	2,386	0	0.0
Marshall	2,548	1	39.2
Mills	976	3	307.4
Mitchell	735	1	136.1
Monona	619	0	0.0
Monroe	522	0	0.0
Montgomery	786	0	0.0
Muscatine	2,874	2	69.6
O'Brien	989	1	101.1
Osceola	486	1	205.8
Page	1,132	0	0.0
Palo Alto	811	0	0.0
Plymouth	1,754	1	57.0
Pocahontas	563	0	0.0
Polk	21,721	8	36.8
Pottawattamie	5,854	2	34.2
Poweshiek	1,709	2	117.0
Ringgold	316	0	0.0
Sac	727	1	137.6
Scott	10,560	4	37.9
Shelby	894	1	111.9
Sioux	2,683	1	37.3
Story	7,903	1	12.7
Tama	1,145	1	87.3
Taylor	474	0	0.0
Union	995	0	0.0
Van Buren	450	0	0.0
Wapello	2,508	2	79.7
Warren	2,934	2	68.2
Washington	1,220	3	245.9
Wayne	389	1	257.1
Webster	2,724	1	36.7
Winnebago	1,027	0	0.0
Winneshiek	1,994	1	50.2
Woodbury	7,220	5	69.3
Worth	494	0	0.0
Wright	837	1	119.5
Iowa	199,416	102	51.1
United States (1992)			66.6

County	Age 16–17 Female Pop.	Live Births	Birth Percentage
Adair	110	3	2.7%
Adams	69	2	2.9%
Allamakee	190	8	4.2%
Appanoose	197	8	4.1%
Audubon	92	0	0.0%
Benton	278	8	2.9%
Black Hawk	1,554	78	5.0%
Boone	295	10	3.4%
Bremer	336	4	1.2%
Buchanan	303	6	2.0%
Buena Vista	243	8	3.3%
Butler	225	3	1.3%
Calhoun	152	2	1.3%
Carroll	293	8	2.7%
Cass	201	4	2.0%
Cedar	211	8	3.8%
Cerro Gordo	565	18	3.2%
Cherokee	225	4	1.8%
Chickasaw	190	3	1.6%
Clarke	132	3	2.3%
Clay	205	6	2.9%
Clayton	301	6	2.0%
Clinton	682	22	3.2%
Crawford	279	4	1.4%
Dallas	399	11	2.8%
Davis	117	2	1.7%
Decatur	97	4	4.1%
Delaware	293	5	1.7%
Des Moines	524	26	5.0%
Dickinson	163	2	1.2%
Dubuque	1,262	25	2.0%
Emmet	188	5	2.7%
Fayette	304	3	1.0%
Floyd	232	6	2.6%
Franklin	156	4	2.6%
Fremont	109	1	0.9%
Greene	118	4	3.4%
Grundy	165	2	1.2%
Guthrie	165	0	0.0%
Hamilton	206	11	5.3%
Hancock	179	5	2.8%
Hardin	218	11	5.0%
Harrison	232	5	2.2%
Henry	250	12	4.8%
Howard	124	4	3.2%
Humboldt	141	4	2.8%
Ida	117	3	2.6%
Iowa	169	2	1.2%
Jackson	300	11	3.7%
Jasper	460	8	1.7%
Jefferson	179	6	3.4%

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17-Year-Olds

fifteen young women in Iowa will give birth between the ages of 16 and 17. Just over one-fourth of the state's counties, mostly the more heavily populated, had percentages higher than the statewide percentage.

County	Age 16-17 Female Pop.	Live Births	Birth Percentage
Johnson	821	15	1.8%
Jones	**248**	**6**	**2.4%**
Keokuk	153	4	2.6%
Kossuth	**289**	**6**	**2.1%**
Lee	519	22	4.2%
Linn	**2,181**	**68**	**3.1%**
Louisa	183	5	2.7%
Lucas	**112**	**2**	**1.8%**
Lyon	182	1	0.5%
Madison	**174**	**2**	**1.1%**
Mahaska	282	10	3.5%
Marion	**272**	**17**	**6.3%**
Marshall	531	19	3.6%
Mills	**210**	**6**	**2.9%**
Mitchell	154	4	2.6%
Monona	**122**	**1**	**0.8%**
Monroe	100	3	3.0%
Montgomery	**163**	**4**	**2.5%**
Muscatine	543	34	6.3%
O'Brien	**192**	**10**	**5.2%**
Osceola	112	1	0.9%
Page	**208**	**6**	**2.9%**
Palo Alto	138	2	1.4%
Plymouth	**325**	**7**	**2.2%**
Pocahontas	111	2	1.8%
Polk	**4,078**	**191**	**4.7%**
Pottawattamie	1,103	54	4.9%
Poweshiek	**251**	**4**	**1.6%**
Ringgold	79	1	1.3%
Sac	**166**	**1**	**0.6%**
Scott	2,089	103	4.9%
Shelby	**209**	**5**	**2.4%**
Sioux	422	12	2.8%
Story	**666**	**12**	**1.8%**
Tama	269	6	2.2%
Taylor	**102**	**1**	**1.0%**
Union	182	3	2.2%
Van Buren	**76**	**3**	**3.9%**
Wapello	460	20	4.3%
Warren	**556**	**12**	**2.2%**
Washington	257	6	2.3%
Wayne	**81**	**1**	**1.2%**
Webster	508	19	3.7%
Winnebago	**159**	**4**	**2.5%**
Winneshiek	256	0	0.0%
Woodbury	**1,348**	**73**	**5.4%**
Worth	101	4	4.0%
Wright	**170**	**2**	**1.2%**
Iowa	**36,106**	**1,203**	**3.3%**
United States (1990)			4.8%

Teen Unmarried Births

The teen unmarried birth percentage, or proportion of all Iowa births that are to unmarried teens, increased from 8.0 percent in 1992 to 8.5 percent in 1993. One in twelve infants in Iowa was born to an unmarried teen in 1993. This percentage has increased more than 77 percent since 1980 and, at this rate, will surpass the national average by the year 2000. More than one-fourth of the counties in the state already have teen unmarried birth percentages above the national figure.

County	Live Births	Teen Unm. Births	Teen Unm. %
Adair	74	3	4.1%
Adams	**51**	**2**	**3.9%**
Allamakee	176	14	8.0%
Appanoose	**164**	**20**	**12.2%**
Audubon	72	1	1.4%
Benton	**306**	**20**	**6.5%**
Black Hawk	1,774	226	12.7%
Boone	**274**	**16**	**5.8%**
Bremer	272	8	2.9%
Buchanan	**277**	**24**	**8.7%**
Buena Vista	238	23	9.7%
Butler	**169**	**13**	**7.7%**
Calhoun	90	6	6.7%
Carroll	**258**	**20**	**7.8%**
Cass	178	12	6.7%
Cedar	**203**	**16**	**7.9%**
Cerro Gordo	592	55	9.3%
Cherokee	**141**	**9**	**6.4%**
Chickasaw	179	5	2.8%
Clarke	**81**	**7**	**8.6%**
Clay	190	14	7.4%
Clayton	**242**	**12**	**5.0%**
Clinton	680	73	10.7%
Crawford	**208**	**19**	**9.1%**
Dallas	425	32	7.5%
Davis	**118**	**3**	**2.5%**
Decatur	88	6	6.8%
Delaware	**262**	**17**	**6.5%**
Des Moines	558	65	11.6%
Dickinson	**127**	**3**	**2.4%**
Dubuque	1,252	93	7.4%
Emmet	**141**	**17**	**12.1%**
Fayette	255	11	4.3%
Floyd	**200**	**18**	**9.0%**
Franklin	120	5	4.2%
Fremont	**90**	**10**	**11.1%**
Greene	129	10	7.8%
Grundy	**141**	**5**	**3.5%**
Guthrie	105	9	8.6%
Hamilton	**193**	**17**	**8.8%**
Hancock	125	10	8.0%
Hardin	**204**	**23**	**11.3%**
Harrison	179	15	8.4%
Henry	**252**	**23**	**9.1%**
Howard	112	9	8.0%
Humboldt	**110**	**8**	**7.3%**
Ida	93	6	6.5%
Iowa	**213**	**9**	**4.2%**
Jackson	258	25	9.7%
Jasper	**423**	**31**	**7.3%**
Jefferson	177	12	6.8%
Johnson	1,337	37	2.8%
Jones	**235**	**18**	**7.7%**
Keokuk	143	9	6.3%
Kossuth	**219**	**9**	**4.1%**
Lee	526	62	11.8%
Linn	**2,551**	**202**	**7.9%**
Louisa	184	16	8.7%
Lucas	**117**	**9**	**7.7%**
Lyon	162	4	2.5%
Madison	**162**	**9**	**5.6%**
Mahaska	277	17	6.1%
Marion	**391**	**37**	**9.5%**
Marshall	523	44	8.4%
Mills	**159**	**15**	**9.4%**
Mitchell	154	8	5.2%
Monona	**106**	**4**	**3.8%**
Monroe	119	7	5.9%
Montgomery	**141**	**10**	**7.1%**
Muscatine	642	62	9.7%
O'Brien	**191**	**23**	**12.0%**
Osceola	81	3	3.7%
Page	**164**	**15**	**9.1%**
Palo Alto	109	8	7.3%
Plymouth	**307**	**22**	**7.2%**
Pocahontas	88	8	9.1%
Polk	**5,460**	**510**	**9.3%**
Pottawattamie	1,193	129	10.8%
Poweshiek	**205**	**12**	**5.9%**
Ringgold	38	4	10.5%
Sac	**139**	**13**	**9.4%**
Scott	2,408	305	12.7%
Shelby	**163**	**9**	**5.5%**
Sioux	437	25	5.7%
Story	**785**	**33**	**4.2%**
Tama	225	17	7.6%
Taylor	**70**	**5**	**7.1%**
Union	152	9	5.9%
Van Buren	**108**	**7**	**6.5%**
Wapello	465	50	10.8%
Warren	**499**	**33**	**6.6%**
Washington	273	15	5.5%
Wayne	**71**	**6**	**8.5%**
Webster	534	51	9.6%
Winnebago	**121**	**9**	**7.4%**
Winneshiek	229	5	2.2%
Woodbury	**1,651**	**195**	**11.8%**
Worth	94	8	8.5%
Wright	**156**	**11**	**7.1%**
Iowa	**37,805**	**3,229**	**8.5%**
United States (1991)			9.0%

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Child Abuse

The founded rate of child abuse in Iowa continues to increase substantially, with the rate jumping 12 percent from 1992 to 1993. The child abuse rate was 11.0 founded cases per 1,000 children age 0–17 in 1992 and rose to 12.3 founded cases in 1993. Even with a declining child population, the number of founded cases of child abuse in Iowa has more than doubled since 1980. Almost one-fourth of the state's counties had founded child abuse rates higher than the state rate in 1993.

County	Child Population	Founded Cases	Founded Abuse Rate
Adair	2,111	13	6.2
Adams	**1,189**	**13**	**10.9**
Allamakee	3,774	25	6.6
Appanoose	**3,458**	**44**	**12.7**
Audubon	1,873	13	6.9
Benton	**6,219**	**69**	**11.1**
Black Hawk	31,402	608	19.4
Boone	**6,169**	**59**	**9.6**
Bremer	5,762	29	5.0
Buchanan	**6,419**	**60**	**9.3**
Buena Vista	5,175	55	10.6
Butler	**4,149**	**26**	**6.3**
Calhoun	2,889	21	7.3
Carroll	**6,359**	**36**	**5.7**
Cass	3,880	43	11.1
Cedar	**4,633**	**51**	**11.0**
Cerro Gordo	11,570	225	19.4
Cherokee	**3,827**	**19**	**5.0**
Chickasaw	3,737	47	12.6
Clarke	**2,168**	**23**	**10.6**
Clay	4,804	54	11.2
Clayton	**5,322**	**27**	**5.1**
Clinton	13,619	188	13.8
Crawford	**4,617**	**36**	**7.8**
Dallas	8,286	62	7.5
Davis	**2,262**	**21**	**9.3**
Decatur	1,941	42	21.6
Delaware	**5,540**	**20**	**3.6**
Des Moines	10,952	129	11.8
Dickinson	**3,506**	**28**	**8.0**
Dubuque	23,401	235	10.0
Emmet	**3,073**	**41**	**13.3**
Fayette	5,780	63	10.9
Floyd	**4,425**	**68**	**15.4**
Franklin	2,926	12	4.1
Fremont	**2,146**	**19**	**8.9**
Greene	2,486	46	18.5
Grundy	**3,077**	**22**	**7.1**
Guthrie	2,723	22	8.1
Hamilton	**4,081**	**57**	**14.0**
Hancock	3,561	39	11.0
Hardin	**4,775**	**11**	**2.3**
Harrison	3,959	29	7.3
Henry	**4,847**	**27**	**5.6**
Howard	2,629	14	5.3
Humboldt	**2,742**	**24**	**8.8**
Ida	2,334	10	4.3
Iowa	**3,745**	**42**	**11.2**
Jackson	5,565	58	10.4
Jasper	**8,912**	**104**	**11.7**
Jefferson	3,987	44	11.0
Johnson	19,347	155	8.0
Jones	**4,990**	**30**	**6.0**
Keokuk	3,021	31	10.3
Kossuth	**5,215**	**35**	**6.7**
Lee	9,971	113	11.3
Linn	**42,430**	**455**	**10.7**
Louisa	3,162	35	11.1
Lucas	**2,234**	**21**	**9.4**
Lyon	3,614	15	4.2
Madison	**3,444**	**26**	**7.5**
Mahaska	5,624	32	5.7
Marion	**7,684**	**91**	**11.8**
Marshall	9,598	116	12.1
Mills	**3,625**	**72**	**19.9**
Mitchell	2,848	32	11.2
Monona	**2,456**	**6**	**2.4**
Monroe	2,059	19	9.2
Montgomery	**2,974**	**21**	**7.1**
Muscatine	11,140	277	24.9
O'Brien	**4,124**	**16**	**3.9**
Osceola	1,979	10	5.1
Page	**4,214**	**38**	**9.0**
Palo Alto	2,848	31	10.9
Plymouth	**6,792**	**14**	**2.1**
Pocahontas	2,478	18	7.3
Polk	**81,971**	**1,803**	**22.0**
Pottawattamie	22,527	377	16.7
Poweshiek	**4,663**	**51**	**10.9**
Ringgold	1,298	18	13.9
Sac	**3,278**	**42**	**12.8**
Scott	42,187	642	15.2
Shelby	**3,586**	**15**	**4.2**
Sioux	8,941	14	1.6
Story	**14,680**	**118**	**8.0**
Tama	4,548	40	8.8
Taylor	**1,822**	**6**	**3.3**
Union	3,292	60	18.2
Van Buren	**2,015**	**29**	**14.4**
Wapello	8,568	113	13.2
Warren	**10,186**	**117**	**11.5**
Washington	5,254	45	8.6
Wayne	**1,657**	**24**	**14.5**
Webster	10,483	108	10.3
Winnebago	**3,090**	**46**	**14.9**
Winneshiek	5,131	26	5.1
Woodbury	**27,579**	**267**	**9.7**
Worth	1,982	46	23.2
Wright	**3,485**	**40**	**11.5**
Iowa	**718,880**	**8,829**	**12.3**
United States (1992)			20

High School

The high school graduation percentage in Iowa, or percentage of students entering seventh grade who graduate with their class six years later, registered a slight increase from 1992 to 1993. The percentage

County	Avg. Class Size	Graduates	Graduation Percentage
Adair	98	86	87.8%
Adams	**53**	**51**	**96.2%**
Allamakee	214	196	91.6%
Appanoose	**193**	**150**	**77.7%**
Audubon	90	84	93.3%
Benton	**311**	**270**	**86.8%**
Black Hawk	1,302	753	57.8%
Boone	**293**	**250**	**85.3%**
Bremer	436	416	95.4%
Buchanan	**249**	**208**	**83.5%**
Buena Vista	257	221	86.0%
Butler	**192**	**186**	**96.9%**
Calhoun	203	197	97.0%
Carroll	**225**	**210**	**93.3%**
Cass	239	217	90.8%
Cedar	**279**	**260**	**93.2%**
Cerro Gordo	502	436	86.9%
Cherokee	**208**	**200**	**96.2%**
Chickasaw	185	180	97.3%
Clarke	**127**	**119**	**93.7%**
Clay	276	257	93.1%
Clayton	**290**	**270**	**93.1%**
Clinton	677	590	87.1%
Crawford	**235**	**221**	**94.0%**
Dallas	488	390	79.9%
Davis	**106**	**93**	**87.7%**
Decatur	107	94	87.9%
Delaware	**267**	**254**	**95.1%**
Des Moines	533	480	90.1%
Dickinson	**219**	**206**	**94.1%**
Dubuque	974	826	84.8%
Emmet	**181**	**171**	**94.5%**
Fayette	354	315	89.0%
Floyd	**254**	**226**	**89.0%**
Franklin	150	138	92.0%
Fremont	**134**	**122**	**91.0%**
Greene	136	128	94.1%
Grundy	**217**	**205**	**94.5%**
Guthrie	180	173	96.1%
Hamilton	**234**	**211**	**90.2%**
Hancock	184	177	96.2%
Hardin	**281**	**248**	**88.3%**
Harrison	230	208	90.4%
Henry	**295**	**267**	**90.5%**
Howard	177	167	94.4%
Humboldt	**144**	**133**	**92.4%**
Ida	111	110	99.1%
Iowa	**207**	**201**	**97.1%**
Jackson	292	264	90.4%
Jasper	**492**	**436**	**88.6%**
Jefferson	141	108	76.6%

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Graduation

was 86.2 percent in 1992 and 86.6 percent in 1993. Though Iowa ranks high nationally in the percentage of students who graduate, the state's percentage has risen only modestly since 1980.

County	Avg. Class Size	Graduates	Graduation Percentage
Johnson	784	720	91.8%
Jones	**272**	**238**	**87.5%**
Keokuk	179	166	92.7%
Kossuth	**199**	**186**	**93.5%**
Lee	485	391	80.6%
Linn	**2,093**	**1,958**	**93.5%**
Louisa	220	207	94.1%
Lucas	**126**	**111**	**88.1%**
Lyon	172	167	97.1%
Madison	**217**	**209**	**96.3%**
Mahaska	231	196	84.8%
Marion	**394**	**360**	**91.4%**
Marshall	470	448	95.3%
Mills	**193**	**168**	**87.0%**
Mitchell	143	133	93.0%
Monona	**139**	**120**	**86.3%**
Monroe	98	84	85.7%
Montgomery	**164**	**151**	**92.1%**
Muscatine	574	460	80.1%
O'Brien	**223**	**202**	**90.6%**
Osceola	72	65	90.3%
Page	**251**	**218**	**86.9%**
Palo Alto	170	159	93.5%
Plymouth	**329**	**315**	**95.7%**
Pocahontas	125	119	95.2%
Polk	**3,834**	**3,255**	**84.9%**
Pottawattamie	1,106	986	89.2%
Poweshiek	**228**	**201**	**88.2%**
Ringgold	75	62	82.7%
Sac	**183**	**164**	**89.6%**
Scott	2,050	1,419	69.2%
Shelby	**204**	**192**	**94.1%**
Sioux	305	289	94.8%
Story	**770**	**712**	**92.5%**
Tama	259	228	88.0%
Taylor	**90**	**88**	**97.8%**
Union	177	159	89.8%
Van Buren	**107**	**91**	**85.0%**
Wapello	502	392	78.1%
Warren	**534**	**500**	**93.6%**
Washington	250	212	84.8%
Wayne	**95**	**90**	**94.7%**
Webster	425	352	82.8%
Winnebago	**209**	**179**	**85.6%**
Winneshiek	214	192	89.7%
Woodbury	**1,245**	**965**	**77.5%**
Worth	89	80	89.9%
Wright	**200**	**190**	**95.0%**
Iowa	**35,696**	**30,928**	**86.6%**
United States (1991)			68.8%

Rural, Small Urban and Metropolitan County Comparisons

Many of Iowa's counties are small enough that variations on the eight indicators of child well-being will be pronounced from year to year. For this reason, counties were divided into three county groupings for further analysis: counties with no population center of 5,000 inhabitants or more (designated rural counties), counties with the largest population center being from 5,000 to 49,999 inhabitants (designated small urban counties) and counties with a population center of 50,000 or more inhabitants (designated metropolitan counties).

■ Metropolitan Counties ▯ Small Urban Counties ▯ Rural Counties

Child Indicators
Rural, Small Urban and Metropolitan Counties and Iowa

	Rural	Small Urban	Metropolitan	Iowa
1993 Well-Being Indicators				
Infant Mortality Rate	7.0	6.6	7.1	6.9
Low Birthweight Percentage	4.9%	5.7%	6.1%	5.8%
Child Death Rate	35.1	17.5	24.6	23.6
Teen Violent Death Rate	99.7	51.7	31.3	51.1
Birth to 16-17-Year-Old Percentage	2.1%	3.0%	4.2%	3.3%
Teen Unmarried Birth Percentage	6.6%	8.0%	9.6%	8.5%
Child Abuse Rate	9.4	10.3	15.6	12.3
High School Graduation Percentage	92.6%	88.5%	81.3%	86.6%

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For Further Information

In addition to its annual report on the well-being of Iowa children, the Iowa Kids Count Initiative publishes a quarterly newsletter which is available upon request. Persons and organizations wishing to receive further publications of the Iowa Kids Count Initiative should contact Mike Crawford, Project Director, Child and Family Policy Center, 1021 Fleming Building, 218 6th Avenue, Des Moines, IA 50309 (515-280-9027).

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